

## ***Governor's Mental Health Task Force Charter***

July 2013

**Background/History:** In January, 2013, Governor Sam Brownback declared the creation of a task force to evaluate the mental health system in Kansas. The intent was to examine ways to encourage collaboration and coordination across state systems and build upon current system and community strengths; using research-based practices and increasing the efficient use of current resources. Furthermore, to examine key factors necessary for increasing community supports and community capacity for those with a mental illness or those with a predisposition for developing mental illness.

### ***Vision***

Kansas communities will have the capacity to support and care for all individuals in a manner that empowers mental and emotional wellness and allows them to live meaningful and productive lives.

### ***Mission***

To identify successful community programs and initiatives that improves the lives of persons with a mental illness and can be replicated throughout the State of Kansas. Increase state agency accountability and the promotion of cross-agency initiatives that improve outcomes for Kansans with a mental illness.

Goals of this charter are to:

- 1) Determine what State Agencies and communities can do to better identify, treat, and support individuals with mental illness to live meaningful and productive lives in their community. This includes individuals who:
  - a. Currently use the mental health system
  - b. Are not reached by appropriate mental health services
  - c. Are at risk of serious life disruption due to exacerbation of mental health symptoms.
- 2) Identify and recommend specific community solutions that have the potential to minimize and prevent the exacerbation of chronic mental health conditions and support individuals to live meaningful and productive lives in their community

Membership shall consist of Kansans representing behavioral health services, education, law enforcement, courts, juvenile and adult corrections, faith communities, academia, social service agencies, consumers and families, and treatment providers. Co-chairs will convene and facilitate monthly meetings of the Membership to execute and monitor tasks to be carried out through the taskforce.